United Nations

Daily Highlights

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, by 11 votes in favour and 4 abstentions, requires States to freeze Libyan assets as of 12:01 a.m. on 1 December unless Libya complies with obligations regarding Pan Am 103 and UTA 772 bombings; exempts funds from oil sales paid into special accounts; prohibits supply of oil-related equipment to Libya.

+ Security Council and General Assembly, meeting concurrently yesterday, elect Géza Herczegh of Hungary, Shigeru Oda of Japan, Carl-August Fleischhauer of Germany, Jiuyong Shi of China and Abdul Koroma of Sierra Leone to International Court of Justice.

+ UNHCR receives pledges worth $156 million for 1994 at meeting of Ad Hoc Committee for Voluntary Contributions.

+ Guatemalan Government and URNG ask Secretary-General to arrange meeting between them to set terms for continuing peace talks suspended in May.

+ Executive Director of UNICEF condemns attack on Tuesday on classroom in Sarajevo in which three children and a teacher were killed and 20 others were seriously injured.

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The Security Council today decided that all States in which there are funds or other financial resources owned or controlled by the Libyan Government or any Libyan undertaking should freeze them as of 12:01 a.m. on 1 December, unless Libya ensured the appearance of those charged with the bombing of Pan Am 103 for trial before a United Kingdom or United States court and satisfied French judicial authorities with respect to the bombing of UTA 772. The Council also reiterated its demand that Libya comply without delay with resolutions 731 (1992) and 748 (1992). It took that action, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, by adopting resolution 883 (1993) by 11 votes in favour to none against, with four abstentions (China, Djibouti, Morocco and Pakistan).

(more)

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According to the resolution, the new measures would not apply to funds or other financial resources derived from the sale or supply of any petroleum or petroleum products, including natural gas and natural gas products, or other agricultural products or commodities originating in Libya and exported from there after 1 December, provided that any such funds were paid into separate bank accounts exclusively for those funds.

In addition, the Council said that States should prohibit the provision to Libya of medium- or large-capacity oil and gas pumps; certain equipment for use in crude oil export terminals and refineries; and spare parts for those items, along with equpiment and licences for their manufacture or maintenance. The Council also required all States to: immediately close all Libyan Arab Airlines offices within their territories and prohibit commercial transactions with that airline; prohibit the making available of aircraft and aircraft components for operation in Libya; and prohibit the supply of materials and services for Libyan civilian or military airfields, except for emergency equipment and equipment related to civilian air traffic control.

The Council said it would be ready to review those measures and the measures set out in resolution 748 (1992) with a view to suspending them if the Secretary-General reported that Libya had complied with its obligations with respect to the bombings of Pan Am 103 and UTA 772, and with a view to lifting them completely when Libya fully complied with resolutions 731 (1992) and 748 (1992).

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The Security Council and General Assembly, meeting concurrently, yesterday elected Géza Herczegh of Hungary, Shigeru Oda of Japan, Carl-August Fleischhauer of Germany, Jiuyong Shi of China and Abdul Koroma of Sierra Leone to fill five vacancies on the International Court of Justice beginning on 6 February 1994.

Candidates required an absolute majority of eight votes in the Council and 94 in the Assembly for election to the 15-member Court. Mr. Koroma was the last candidate to be elected. The Council had given a majority to José Luis Jesus of Cape Verde in its second meeting of the day, but voted for Mr. Koroma in a third meeting after the withdrawal of Mr. Jesus as a candidate.

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Pledges totalling the equivalent of $156 million were announced yesterday for the 1994 programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) at a meeting of the General Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to the UNHCR. Such contributions, from Governments and private sources, are UNHCR's only means of funding its programmes of protection and assistance.

Speaking at the close of the meeting, High Commissioner Sadako Ogata said that this year's pledges exceeded the amount pledged last year and that the strong support shown was a source of great encouragement. Earlier, she had

told participants that UNHCR's budget had almost tripled over the past three years and that the number of staff had almost doubled. In a world still groping for a new order, she said, humanitarian action was sometimes the only response.

General Assembly President Samuel Insanally (Guyana) told the meeting that contributions to UNHCR would have a direct impact on more than 19 million refugees who needed protection and assistance. The past 12 months had seen a number of positive developments, particularly voluntary repatriations to Afghanistan, Cambodia and Mozambique. But the overwhelming trend remained one of flight caused by nationalistic, ethnic or communal tensions which, more than ever, impelled refugee movements around the world, he said.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has been asked by the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) to arrange a preliminary meeting between them, according to a United Nations spokesman. The purpose would be to establish terms for the continuation of peace talks which were suspended last May.

The spokesman said the Secretary-General was consulting with the parties on modalities for the preliminary meeting, within the framework of his mandate of good offices, and without prejudging the future format of the negotiations and the possible role of the United Nations in them. It was envisaged that the meeting would be convened in the coming weeks.

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The Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), James P. Grant, has condemned the attack on Tuesday on a classroom in Sarajevo in which at least three children and their teacher were killed and 20 others were seriously injured. "We understand that no place is safe in Sarajevo," he said. "However, after 20 months of war, school offers the only refuge from the conflict, the only semblance of normalcy." Now going to school was risky.

UNICEF's child psychologist in Sarajevo has begun organizing psychological support services for the surviving children. Since the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina began, UNICEF has trained teachers and psychosocial counsellors in an effort to keep schools open, and has provided $650,000 worth of school materials for a total of some 35,000 children.

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